

REMARKS

Claims 1-2 and 4-13 and 16-23 are pending in this application, of which claims 1-2 have been amended. No new claims have been added.

Claims 1-2, 4 and 7 stand rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as anticipated over **Hiroshi** in view of **Rossoll** (both previously applied).

Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Both **Hiroshi** and **Rossoll** fail to teach, mention or suggest the following features of the present invention, as recited in amended claims 1-2:

- ① Both the pole and the lead bushing are made of lead-calcium based alloy; and
- ② At the time of laser welding, a laser beam of low output is applied first and thereafter a laser beam of a high output is applied.

Claim 2 of the instant application also recites a tab terminal member which is fitly mounted on the lead bushing, which is not disclosed in either of the cited references.

The additionally cited U.S. Patent 6,193,765 to **Nakanishi** does not disclose or teach the above-listed featured elements as defined in amended claims 1 and 2.

Advantageous effects produced by amended claims 1 and 2 are as follows:

- ① One advantage of the present invention, as clearly described on page 13, lines 12-16 of the specification, is that the pole and the lead-bushing are made of a lead-calcium based alloy.

- ② Another advantage is disclosed from page 13, lines 17 to page 15, lines 1-6, which disclose that, at the time of the laser welding, a laser beam of a low output is applied first and thereafter a laser beam of a high output is applied.

Thus, the 35 USC §103(a) rejection should be withdrawn.

Claims 5, 6 and 8-23 have been allowed.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and accompanying remarks, claims 1-2, 4-13 and 16-23, as amended, are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

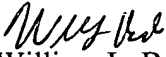
If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

U.S. Patent Application Serial No. **09/857,187**
Response to Office Action dated January 3, 2005

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due with respect to this paper, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

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